

area of laurel forest where steep slopes make observations difficult. The butterfly may have maintained itself in this region.

We therefore hope that this part of the island will be visited by others and the presence of this butterfly reported.

References

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Hydraecia petasitis Doubl. (Lep.: Noctuidae) The Butterbur in Angus.

I took a female *H. petasitis* at light on the sandhills of Lunan Bay, Angus, on 23rd August 1988. Apart from being new to the County this species does not appear to have been previously reported north of the counties of Midlothian and Stirlingshire. The foodplant, *Petasites hybridus* flourishes in the nearby Lunan Water and further investigation is needed to ascertain whether or not this normally sedentary species is resident.— BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JS.

Purple Hairstreak in swimming pools.

I was interested in Mr Percival's note (*Ent. Rec.* 102: 4). I have also rescued Purple Hairstreaks from our pool here, although only two and those a few years ago. I have never seen the butterfly in the garden although they do occur locally. It may be that the pale blue colour is attractive to this butterfly but in our case, after 30 years, the blue colour of our pool is more of a memory.

Here, butterfly victims of the pool are in the minority, and usually Meadow Browns or Whites. Moths are more frequent after muggy nights, mainly the frailer geometrids (although two specimens of the Waved Black, *Parascotia fuliginosa* L. last year were a bit of a surprise). Noctuids seem to be able to get up enough steam, like a hydrofoil, to escape.

This reminds me of a different form of "suicidal" behaviour witnessed last spring, when burning up tarred timbers from a storm-blown barn. I was horrified to see a Speckled Wood ignore the smoke, and fly, about six feet from the ground above the hottest spot, where it perished.— H. MACKWORTH-PRAED, Tunbar, Headley, Epsom, Surrey.